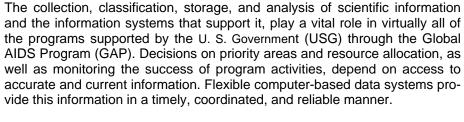Photo by Alex Kamweru

Department of Health and Human Services/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Global AIDS Program (GAP)

Under the direction of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is a proud partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. GAP helps resource-constrained countries prevent HIV infection; improve treatment, care, and support for people living with HIV; and build capacity and infrastructure to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

About Our Work:
Informatics

The collection, classification, storage, and analysis of scientific information and the information systems that support it, play a vital role in virtually all of the programs supported by the U. S. Government (USG) through the Global AIDS Program (GAP). Decisions on priority areas and resource allocation, as well as monitoring the success of program activities, depend on access to accurate and current information. Flexible computer-based data systems provide this information in a timely, coordinated, and reliable manner.

GAP is developing model data collection questionnaires, interview forms, and reports. Sample or prototype information systems that support the collection, entry, validation, management, and analysis of these data are also necessary. These systems allow public health authorities to determine the magnitude of the local HIV/AIDS epidemic and help manage individual services at counseling centers and treatment clinics.

These information systems also help evaluate program effectiveness by tracking the number of persons seen, the number of medical evaluations performed, and the number of persons treated. These systems also track the long-term impact of programs by measuring trends in HIV infection and disease and quality of life.

A Multi-Pronged Approach

GAP's information systems approach includes several interrelated activities:
♦ training local staff to develop, support, and enhance information systems;
♦ assisting countries to obtain hardware and software for running these systems;
♦ consulting with countries on the adaptation of model systems to meet local information and data management needs.

In Zimbabwe, with USG funding, GAP helped. . .
♦ develop a web-based information system that allows the Ministry of Public Health to monitor the progress of many of the HIV/AIDS-related projects they support;
♦ establish a Public Health Informatics Program at the University of Zimbabwe School of Medicine;
♦ develop a general-purpose electronic medical records system for tuberculosis and HIV clinical care using the CDC's EpiInfo-2002 application development system;
♦ build a computer training facility for use by a variety of public health organizations.

Participants learn to use a statistical software package at a Global AIDS Program-supported training at the University of Zimbabwe.

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